

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

*Dash 9*

1. Conveyor for elongate components (12) designed with a head (41) and a shank (42), with a feed arrangement (7) comprising a transfer arrangement (8) with a transfer region (15) in which a feed duct (11) comprising a head guiding duct (13) and a shank guiding duct (14) passes into a conveying duct (16) in which a component (12) can be positioned, characterized by a transfer arrangement (8) which comprises a catch unit (17) having at least one catch element (18) which is arranged opposite the shank guiding duct (14), penetrates at least partially into the head guiding duct (13) and can be deflected from the head guiding duct (13) against a spring force.

*Sub B2P*

2. Conveyor according to claim 1, characterized in that at least one catch element (18) has a locking face (22) at least partially limiting the transfer region (15).

3. Conveyor according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that at least one catch element (18) is articulated on one side, a free end portion (21) of the catch element (18) penetrating at least partially into the head guiding duct (13).

4. Conveyor according to claims 1, 2 or 3, characterized in that at least one catch element (18) has at least one portion consisting of a resilient material.

5. Conveyor according to claim 4, characterized in that the resilient material is a spring steel.

6. Conveyor according to claim 4, characterized in that the resilient material is a plastics material.

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7. Conveyor according to claim 1, 2 or 3, characterized in that at least one catch element (18) is articulated pivotally round an axis (38) and at least one spring element (39) acts on the catch element (18).

8. Conveyor according to claim 7, characterized in that the spring element (39) is a compression spring which is arranged between the axis (38) and the end portion (21) of the catch element (18).

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9. Conveyor according to one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that the transfer arrangement (8) comprises two relatively displaceable positioning segments (9, 10), the positioning segments (9, 10) defining a recess (24) through which a component (12) can be introduced into the conveying duct (16).

10. Conveyor according to claim 9, characterized in that the positioning segments (9, 10) are displaceable against a spring force.

11. *The conveyor* according to claim 9, or 10, characterized in that each positioning segment (9, 10) is pivotal round a respective pivot axis (25, 26).

12. *The conveyor* according to claim 9, 10 or 11, characterized in that the positioning segments (9, 10) have a form substantially corresponding to the cross section of the feed duct (11).

13. Conveyor according to one of claims 9 to 12, characterized in that each positioning segment (9, 10) can assume an end position in which the positioning segments (9, 10) form a portion of the feed duct (11).

14. *Sub B4* Conveyor according to one of claims 1 to 13, characterized in that the conveying duct (16) is formed by a split sleeve (31) which comprises a first end portion (34) adjacent to the transfer region (15) and a second end portion (35) remote from the transfer region (15) and at least one resilient element (36) is arranged on the second end portion (35), the cross section of the conveying duct (16) tapering conically substantially from the first end portion (34) to the second end portion (35) and being enlargeable against the action of the element (36).

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